



# Optimization in Energy Systems

Optimal Power Flow

Prof. Gabriela Hug, [ghug@ethz.ch](mailto:ghug@ethz.ch)

# Repetition: Power Flow Equations

- Equations depending on bus type: Two variables per bus  
=> we need two equation per bus

- PQ bus
 
$$-P_{L_k} = \sum_{m \in \Omega_k} P_{km}(\cdot) = U_k \sum_{m \in K} U_m (G_{km} \cos \theta_{km} + B_{km} \sin \theta_{km})$$

$$-Q_{L_k} = -Q_{sh_k}(U_k) + \sum_{m \in \Omega_k} Q_{km}(\cdot) = U_k \sum_{m \in K} U_m (G_{km} \sin \theta_{km} - B_{km} \cos \theta_{km})$$
- PU bus
 
$$P_{G_k} - P_{L_k} = \sum_{m \in \Omega_k} P_{km}(\cdot) = U_k \sum_{m \in K} U_m (G_{km} \cos \theta_{km} + B_{km} \sin \theta_{km})$$

$$U_k = U_{G_k}$$
- slack bus
 
$$U_k = U_{G_k}$$

$$\theta_k = 0$$

# Repetition: DC Power Flow

## ■ Line Model

- neglect loss terms (set  $g_{km} = 0$ )
- set  $U_k \approx U_m \approx 1$  p.u.  $\Rightarrow$  need to work with p.u. values!

$$\sin \theta_{km} \approx \theta_{km}$$

$$\Rightarrow P_{km} = \frac{\theta_{km}}{x_{km}} = \frac{\theta_k - \theta_m}{x_{km}}$$

models active power flows but  
cannot be used to model reactive  
power

## ■ System Equations

- Power balance at all buses except slack bus

$$P_k = P_{G_k} - P_{L_k} = \sum_{m \in \Omega_k} P_{km} \quad \Rightarrow \quad P = B\theta$$

vector of net injections  
(except slack)
vector of angles  
(except slack)

$$B_{km} = -\frac{1}{x_{km}}$$

$$B_{kk} = \sum_{m \in \Omega_k} \frac{1}{x_{km}}$$

- Slack bus

$$\theta_k = 0$$

# Learning Objectives

- After this lecture, you should be able
  - to set up and solve/implement an Optimal Power Flow problem using AC as well as DC power flow constraints
  - to set up and solve/implement a security constrained optimization problem using AC as well as DC power flow constraints

# Optimization Problems

- Economic Dispatch
  - Find the generation dispatch which minimizes overall generation cost while supplying all loads
  - ⇒ Neglect grid
  
- Optimal Power Flow
  - Find the settings for the controllable variables, e.g. generation output, which minimizes the objective function, e.g. overall supply cost, taking into account the power flow equations and operational constraints.
  - ⇒ Take grid into account

# Optimal Power Flow

- Optimal Power Flow (OPF):  
is a means to determine the optimal operational settings in an electric power system with respect to a given objective
- Power flow equations:  
are part of the constraint set
- Objective function:  
depends on objective to be achieved
- Control variables:  
depend on variables for which a setting is sought

# Optimal Power Flow

- Optimization applied to Power Systems

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x,u} f(x, u) \\ \text{s.t. } h(x, u) = 0 \\ g(x, u) \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- State Variables  $x$ :
  - voltage magnitudes and angles
- Control Variables  $u$ :
  - depends on the problem, e.g.:
    - generator outputs
    - device settings
    - generator voltages, etc.
- Equality Constraints  $h(x, u)$ :
  - power flow equations

# Optimal Power Flow

- Optimization applied to Power Systems (cont.)

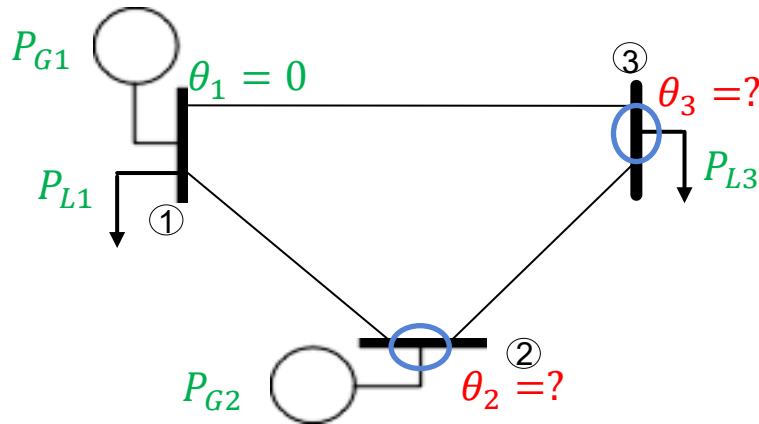
$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x,u} f(x, u) \\ \text{s.t. } h(x, u) = 0 \\ g(x, u) \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Inequality Constraints  $g(x, u)$ :
  - depends on considered problem, e.g.
    - Limits on line flows and/or voltages
    - Limits on control equipment settings, etc.
- Objective Function  $f(x, u)$ :
  - depends on considered problem, e.g.
    - Improve voltage profile
    - Minimize overall cost
    - Minimize power losses, etc.



# Power Flow Equations in OPF

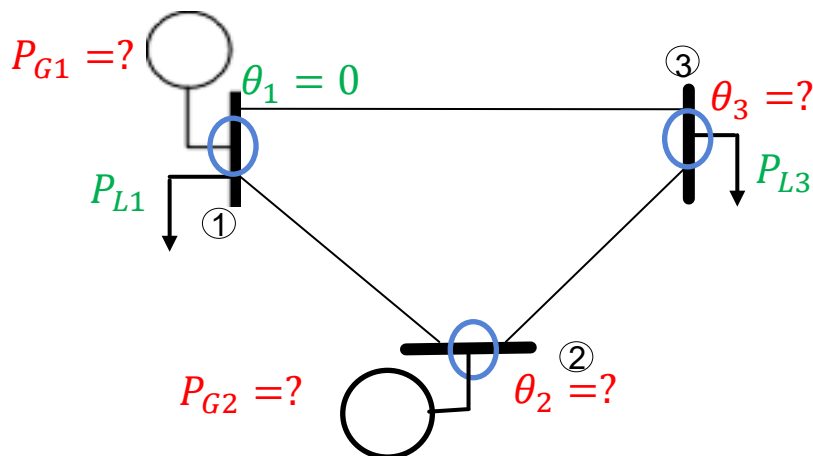
## Power Flow Computations



$$\theta_1 = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} P_{G2} \\ -P_{L3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{x_{12}} + \frac{1}{x_{23}} & -\frac{1}{x_{23}} \\ -\frac{1}{x_{23}} & \frac{1}{x_{13}} + \frac{1}{x_{23}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \theta_2 \\ \theta_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Optimal Power Flow



$$\theta_1 = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} P_{G1} - P_{L1} \\ P_{G2} \\ -P_{L3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{x_{12}} & -\frac{1}{x_{13}} \\ \frac{1}{x_{12}} + \frac{1}{x_{23}} & -\frac{1}{x_{23}} \\ -\frac{1}{x_{23}} & \frac{1}{x_{13}} + \frac{1}{x_{23}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \theta_2 \\ \theta_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Need to include power balance at  
slack bus in equation system

# DC Optimal Power Flow (for Economic Dispatch)

- Objective

$$\min_{P_G} \sum_{i=1}^{N_G} C_{G_i}(P_{G_i}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_G} (a_i P_{G_i}^2 + b_i P_{G_i} + c_i)$$

- Variables:  $P_G, \theta$  (excluding angle at slack bus, i.e.  $\theta_1 = 0$ )

- Equality Constraints

- Power balance at all nodes:  $P = B \cdot \theta$

- Inequality Constraints

- Limits on power generation:  $P_G^{min} \leq P_G \leq P_G^{max}$
- Limits on line flows:  $-P_{ij}^{max} \leq P_{ij} \leq P_{ij}^{max}$

# DC Optimal Power Flow

## ■ Example

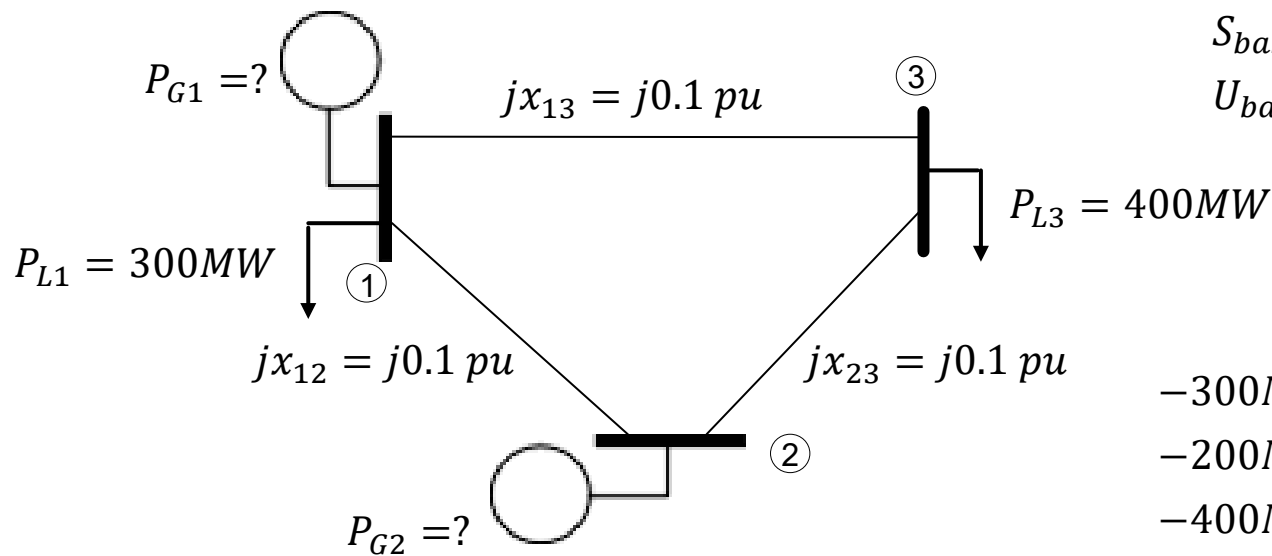
### ■ Two Generators:

$$C_1(P_{G1}) = 900 + 45P_{G1} + 0.01P_{G1}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G1} \leq 200MW$$

$$C_2(P_{G2}) = 2500 + 43P_{G2} + 0.003P_{G2}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G2} \leq 700MW$$



$$S_{base} = 100MW$$

$$U_{base} = U_n$$

$$-300MW \leq P_{12} \leq 300MW$$

$$-200MW \leq P_{13} \leq 200MW$$

$$-400MW \leq P_{23} \leq 400MW$$

# DC Optimal Power Flow

## ■ Example

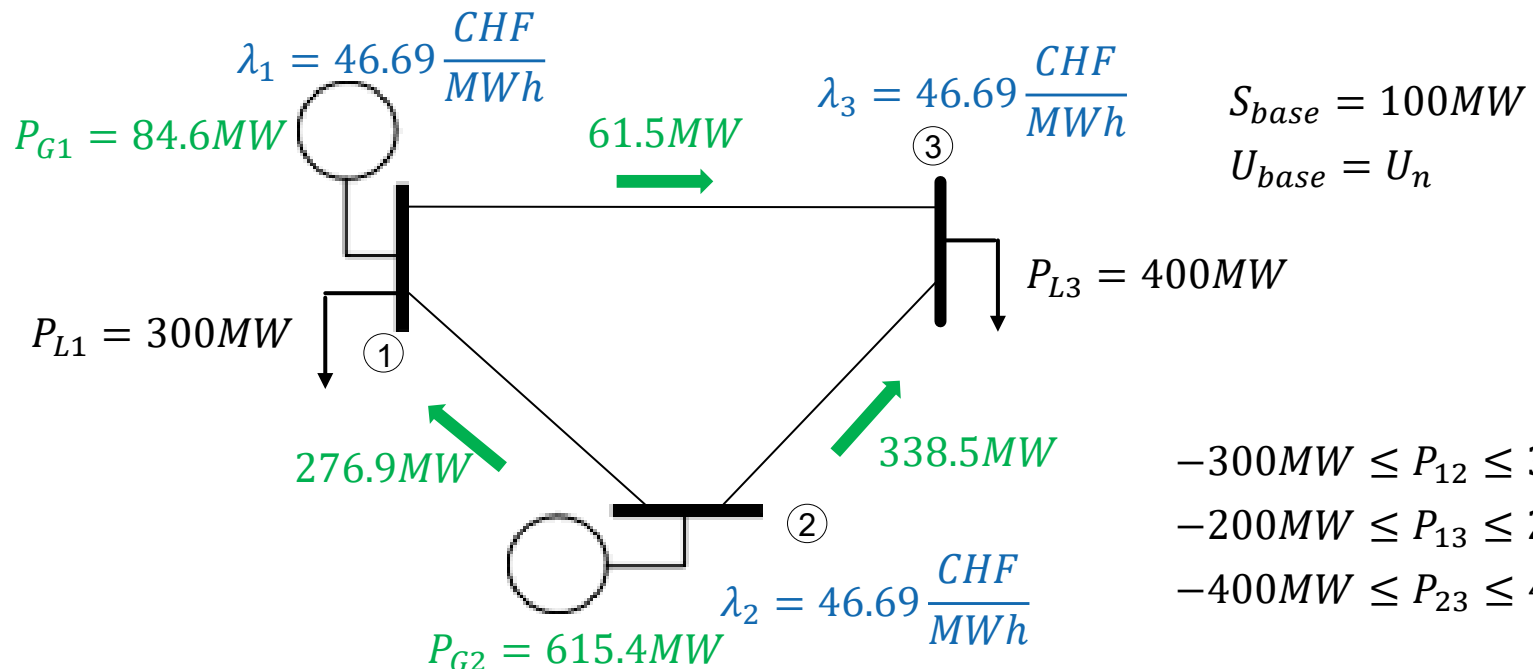
### ■ Two Generators:

$$C_1(P_{G1}) = 900 + 45P_{G1} + 0.01P_{G1}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G1} \leq 200MW$$

$$C_2(P_{G2}) = 2500 + 43P_{G2} + 0.003P_{G2}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G2} \leq 700MW$$



**Line constraints non-binding => OPF solution = economic dispatch solution**

# DC Optimal Power Flow

## ■ Example

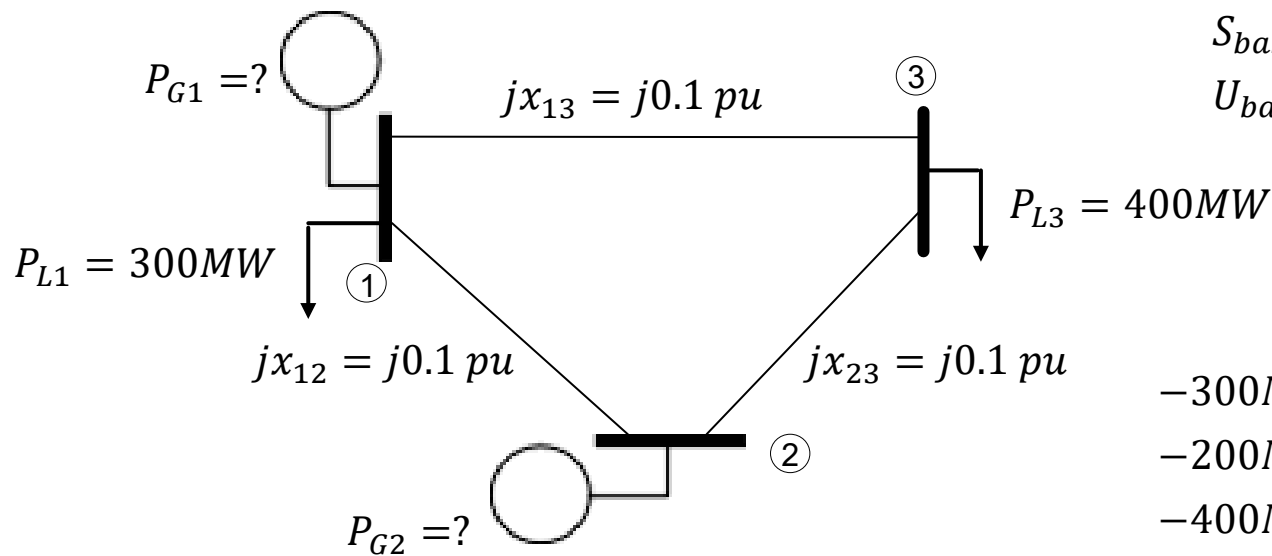
### ■ Two Generators:

$$C_1(P_{G1}) = 900 + 45P_{G1} + 0.01P_{G1}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G1} \leq 200MW$$

$$C_2(P_{G2}) = 2500 + 43P_{G2} + 0.003P_{G2}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G2} \leq \cancel{700MW} \text{ } 600MW$$



$$S_{base} = 100MW$$

$$U_{base} = U_n$$

$$-300MW \leq P_{12} \leq 300MW$$

$$-200MW \leq P_{13} \leq 200MW$$

$$-400MW \leq P_{23} \leq 400MW$$

# DC Optimal Power Flow

## ■ Example

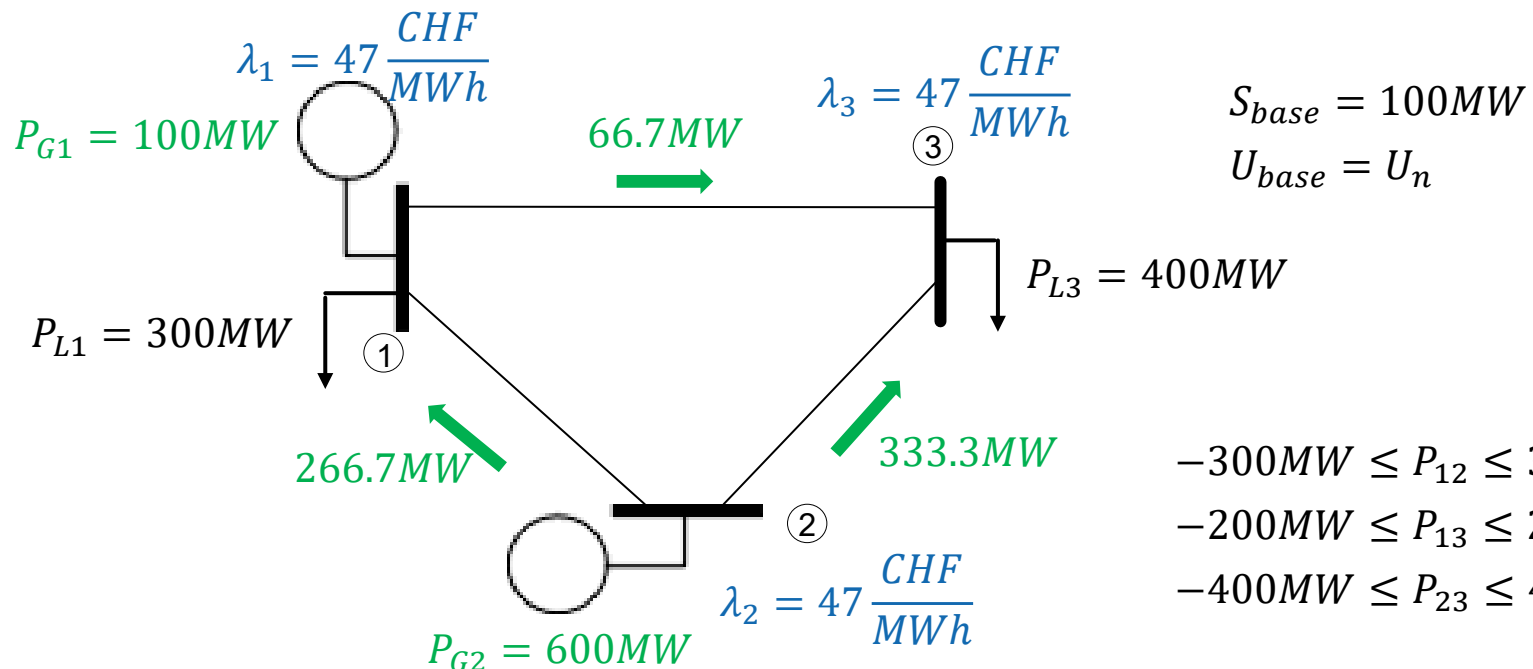
### ■ Two Generators:

$$C_1(P_{G1}) = 900 + 45P_{G1} + 0.01P_{G1}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G1} \leq 200MW$$

$$C_2(P_{G2}) = 2500 + 43P_{G2} + 0.003P_{G2}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G2} \leq \cancel{700MW} \text{ } 600MW$$



$$-300MW \leq P_{12} \leq 300MW$$

$$-200MW \leq P_{13} \leq 200MW$$

$$-400MW \leq P_{23} \leq 400MW$$

**Line constraints non-binding => OPF solution = economic dispatch solution**

# DC Optimal Power Flow

## ■ Example

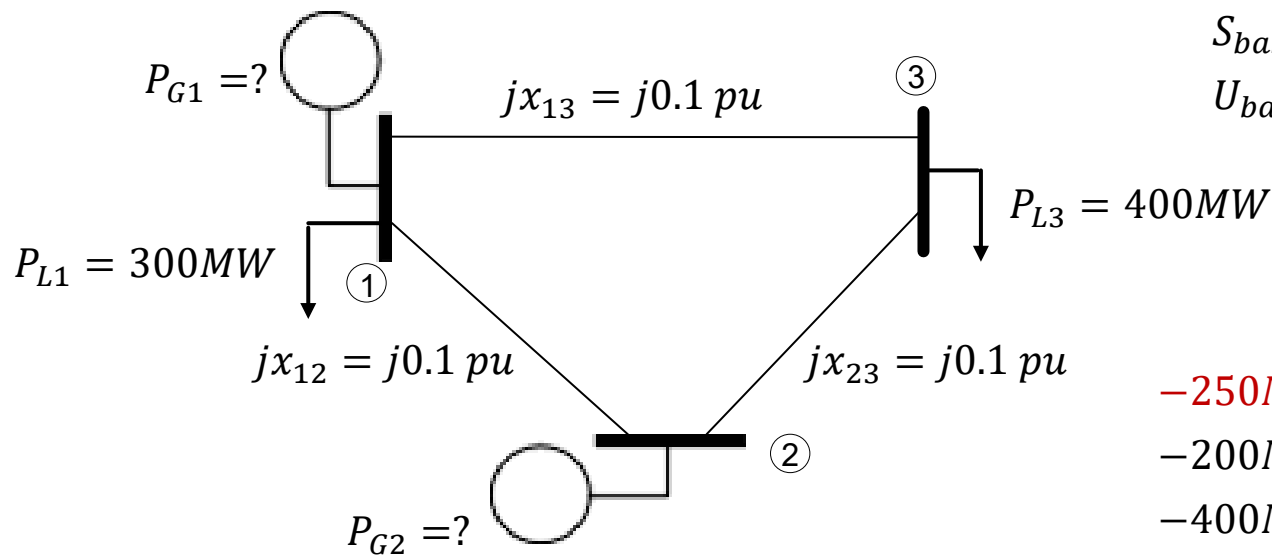
### ■ Two Generators:

$$C_1(P_{G1}) = 900 + 45P_{G1} + 0.01P_{G1}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G1} \leq 200MW$$

$$C_2(P_{G2}) = 2500 + 43P_{G2} + 0.003P_{G2}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G2} \leq 700MW$$



$$S_{base} = 100MW$$

$$U_{base} = U_n$$

$$-250MW \leq P_{12} \leq 250MW$$

$$-200MW \leq P_{13} \leq 200MW$$

$$-400MW \leq P_{23} \leq 400MW$$

# DC Optimal Power Flow

## ■ Example

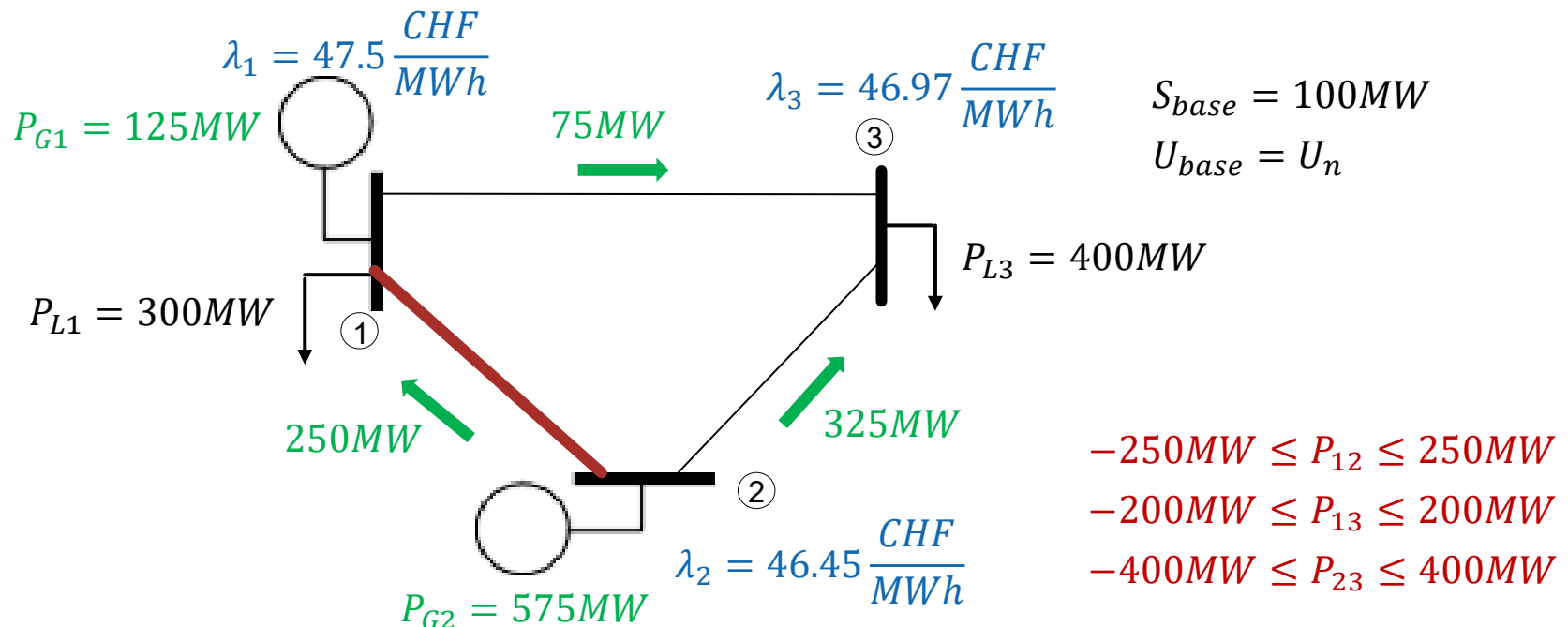
### ■ Two Generators:

$$C_1(P_{G1}) = 900 + 45P_{G1} + 0.01P_{G1}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G1} \leq 200MW$$

$$C_2(P_{G2}) = 2500 + 43P_{G2} + 0.003P_{G2}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G2} \leq 700MW$$





# DC Optimal Power Flow

## ■ Example

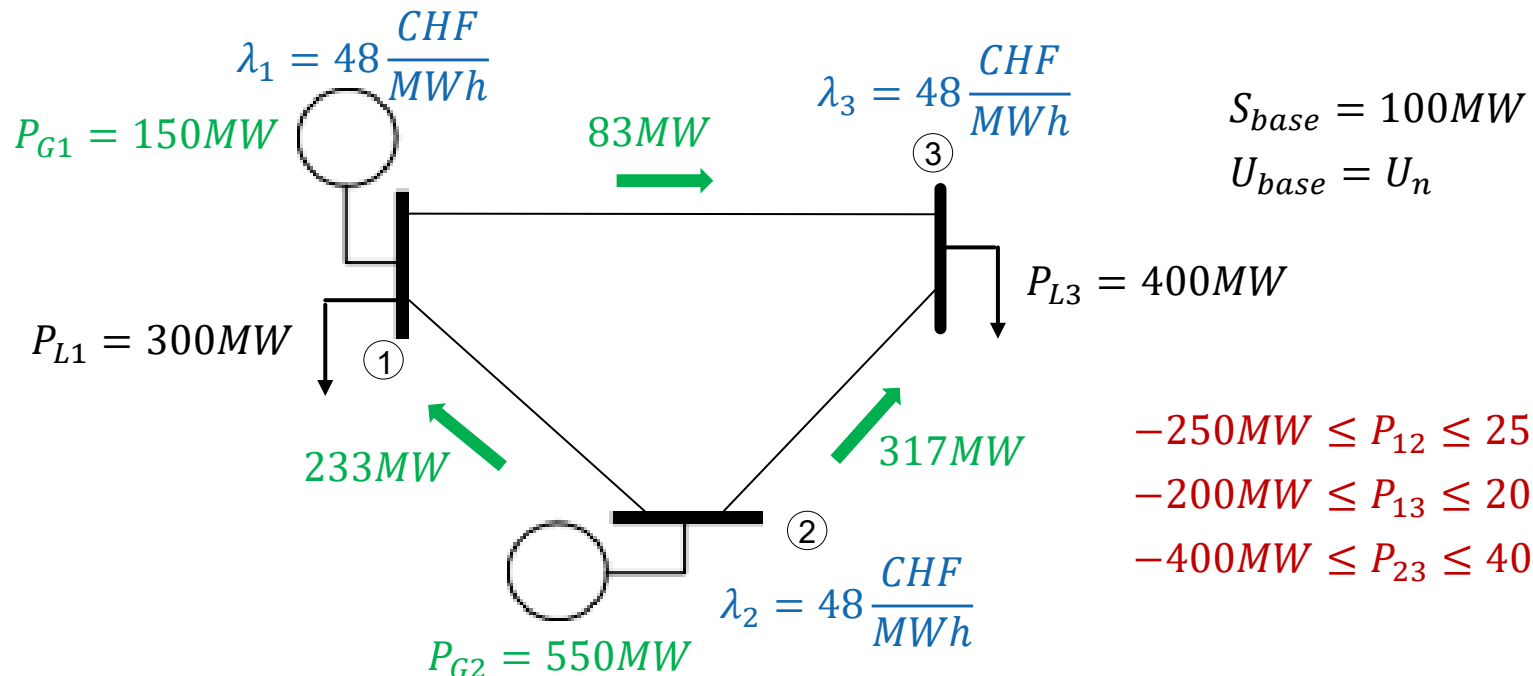
### ■ Two Generators:

$$C_1(P_{G1}) = 900 + 45P_{G1} + 0.01P_{G1}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G1} \leq 200MW$$

$$C_2(P_{G2}) = 2500 + 43P_{G2} + 0.003P_{G2}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G2} \leq 550MW$$



$$-250 \text{ MW} \leq P_{12} \leq 250 \text{ MW}$$

$$-200 \text{ MW} \leq P_{13} \leq 200 \text{ MW}$$

$$-400 \text{ MW} \leq P_{23} \leq 400 \text{ MW}$$

# DC Optimal Power Flow

## ■ Conclusions

- Case 1: line flows do NOT reach their limits
  - Results equal to economic dispatch
  - Lagrange Multiplier for power balance constraints all equal and equal to price in economic dispatch
- Case 2: at least one line limit is reached
  - Results deviate from pure economic dispatch
  - Lagrange Multipliers for power balance constraints deviate from each other => they correspond to locational marginal prices

## ■ Locational Marginal Pricing

- Lagrange Multiplier = Locational Marginal Price (LMP)
- Indicates the cost of covering the next additional MWh of load at that particular node

# AC Optimal Power Flow (for Economic Dispatch)

- Objective

$$\min_{P_G} \sum_{i=1}^{N_G} C_{G_i}(P_{G_i}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_G} (a_i P_{G_i}^2 + b_i P_{G_i} + c_i)$$

- Variables:  $P_G, U, \theta$

- Equality Constraints

- Active Power balance at all nodes:  $P_i = \sum_{ij \in \Omega_i} P_{ij}(U_i, U_j, \theta_i, \theta_j)$
- Reactive Power balance at PQ nodes:  $Q_i = \sum_{ij \in \Omega_i} Q_{ij}(U_i, U_j, \theta_i, \theta_j)$
- Voltage Control at PU nodes:  $U_i = U_i^{set}$

- Inequality Constraints

- Limits on power generation:  $P_G^{min} \leq P_G \leq P_G^{max}$
- Limits on line flows:  $-S_{ij}^{max} \leq S_{ij} \leq S_{ij}^{max}$  or  $-I_{ij}^{max} \leq I_{ij} \leq I_{ij}^{max}$
- Limits on voltage magnitudes of PQ buses:  $U_i^{min} \leq U_i \leq U_i^{max}$

# AC Optimal Power Flow

## ■ Example

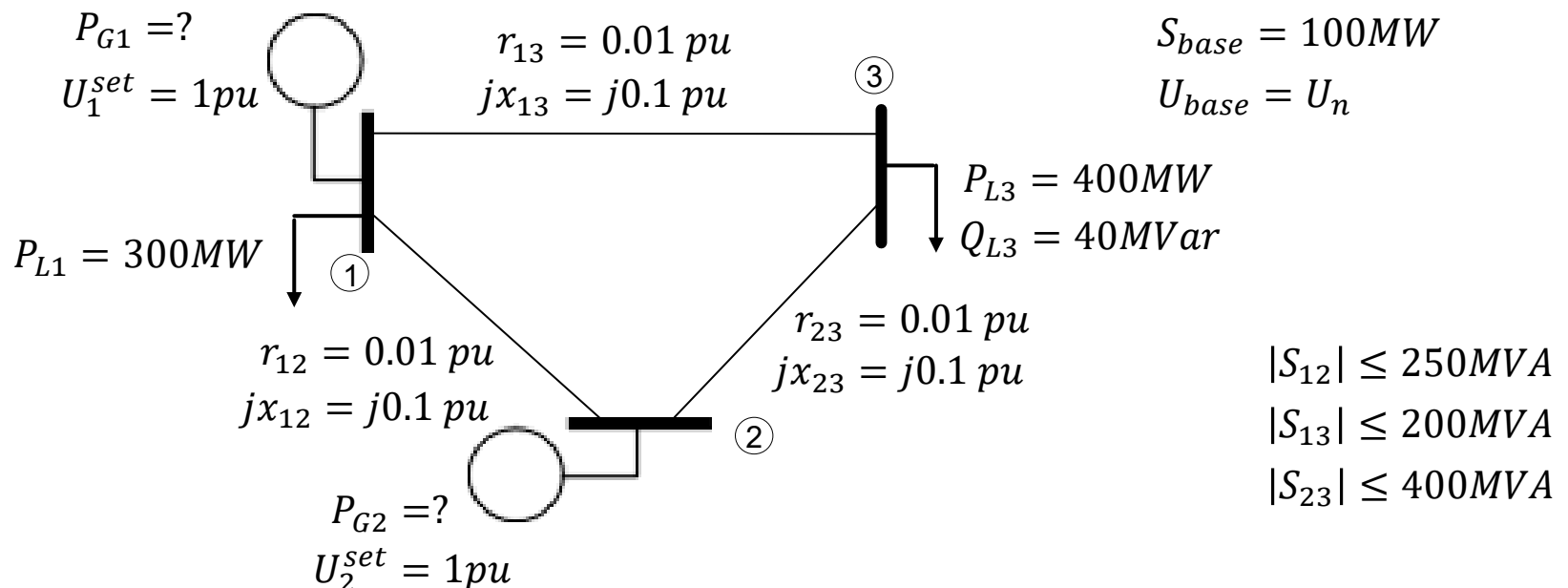
### ■ Two Generators:

$$C_1(P_{G1}) = 900 + 45P_{G1} + 0.01P_{G1}^2$$

$$0\text{MW} \leq P_{G1} \leq 200\text{MW}$$

$$C_2(P_{G2}) = 2500 + 43P_{G2} + 0.003P_{G2}^2$$

$$0\text{MW} \leq P_{G2} \leq 700\text{MW}$$



# AC Optimal Power Flow

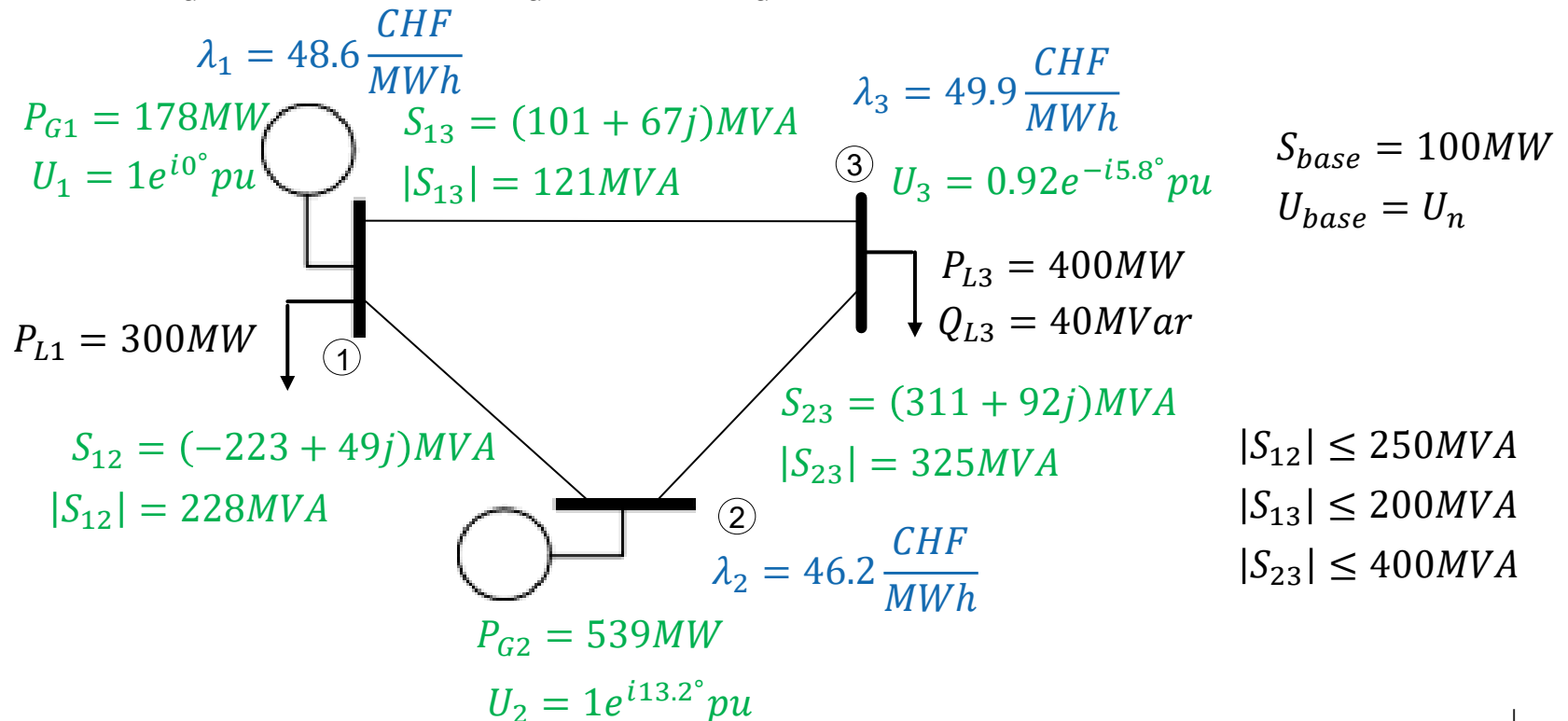
- Example
  - Two Generators:

$$C_1(P_{G1}) = 900 + 45P_{G1} + 0.01P_{G1}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G1} \leq 200MW$$

$$C_2(P_{G2}) = 2500 + 43P_{G2} + 0.003P_{G2}^2$$

$$0MW \leq P_{G2} \leq 700MW$$

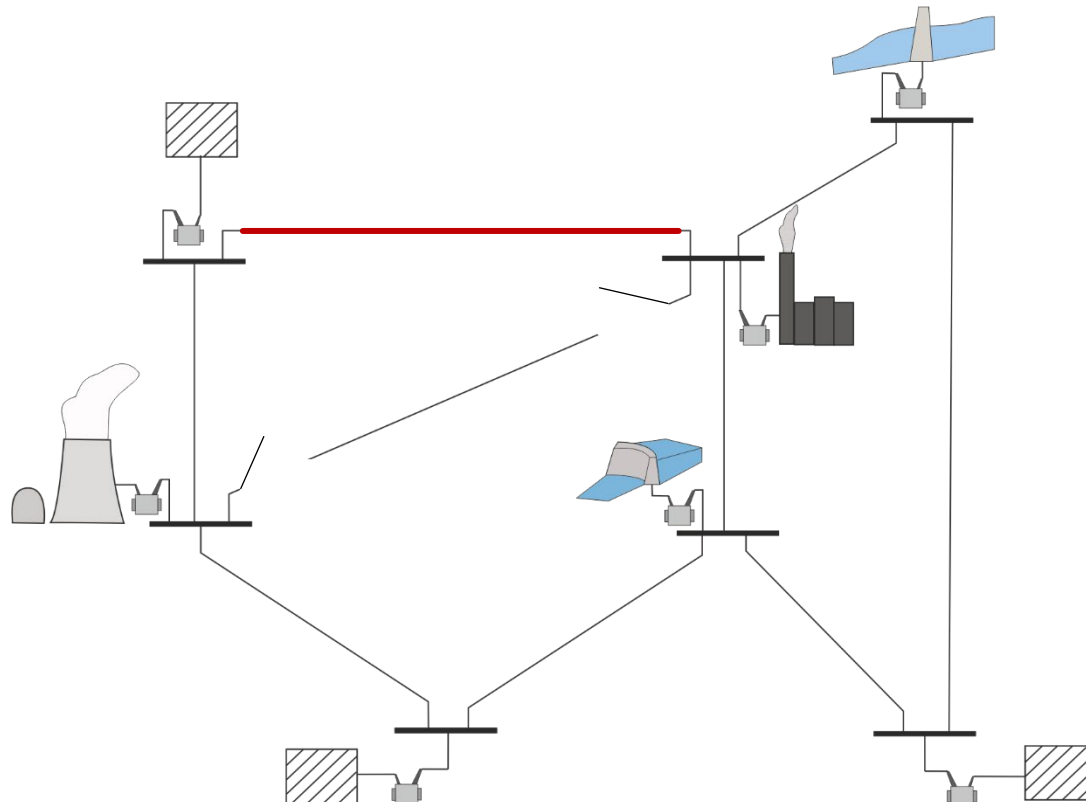


# AC OPF vs. DC OPF

|                       | DC OPF                            | AC OPF                              |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| $U_1 \angle \theta_1$ | $1 \angle 0^\circ \text{ pu}$     | $1 \angle 0^\circ \text{ pu}$       |
| $U_2 \angle \theta_2$ | $1 \angle 15.87^\circ \text{ pu}$ | $1 \angle 13.2^\circ \text{ pu}$    |
| $U_3 \angle \theta_3$ | $1 \angle -3.53^\circ \text{ pu}$ | $0.92 \angle -5.8^\circ \text{ pu}$ |
| $P_{G1}$              | $84.6 \text{ MW}$                 | $178 \text{ MW}$                    |
| $P_{G2}$              | $615.4 \text{ MW}$                | $539 \text{ MW}$                    |
| $P_{loss}$            | $0 \text{ MW (21 MW)}$            | $17 \text{ MW}$                     |

# Security Constrained Optimal Power Flow

- N-1 Security
  - System is operated such that no constraint is violated in normal operation or in case of a failure of one element in the system



# Security Constrained Optimal Power Flow

- Optimization Problem
  - Same as AC OPF or as DC OPF
  - Additional power flow balances for considered failure cases
  - Additional operational limitations for considered cases
- Variables
  - Power Generation:  $P_G$
  - Voltages in normal operation:  $U_0, \theta_0$
  - Voltages for each contingency case:  $U_q, \theta_q, \quad q = 1, \dots, N$
- Problem Formulation

|                          |                                                                                                |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Minimize Generation Cost | $\sum_{i=1}^{N_G} C_i(P_{G_i})$                                                                |
| Normal Operation         | $s.t. \quad g_0(x_0, P_G) = 0$ $h_0(x_0, P_G) \leq \bar{h}$                                    |
| Contingency Cases        | $g_q(x_q, P_G) = 0, \quad q = 1, \dots, N$ $h_q(x_q, P_G) \leq \bar{h}, \quad q = 1, \dots, N$ |



# Summary

- Economic Dispatch
  - Find generation dispatch that minimizes cost of supply
  - Constraints include generation limits
  - Lagrange Multiplier of power balance constraint equal to marginal price
  
- DC OPF and AC OPF
  - Find generation dispatch that minimizes cost of supply (or other objective)
  - Constraints include grid limitations (line flows, voltages, etc.)
  - Lagrange Multipliers of power balance constraints correspond to locational marginal prices (LMP) => congestions and losses make LMPs deviate from each other

# Summary

- Security Constrained OPF
  - Same as DC or AC OPF but includes constraints for contingency cases
  - Additional set of power flow equations per considered contingency